

WRESTLING FORUM

MAY 30, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 10

OFFICIAL 14 carrot gold issue
(rabbits will love this one)

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BACK AGAIN

Hello and a big welcome to the newly price increased Wrestling Forum. Let's get the formalities out of the way first before our usual gab session. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail the following day (we break that rule right off the bat with this issue since the 31st is a holiday and the post office is closed). Rates are now officially \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe in any increment upto six months maximum.

It's been a pretty slow couple of weeks wrestling wise around here. Most of the time has been spent waiting on rumors to be confirmed or denied. I'm going to be extremely interested in seeing if we can get the bulletin full this time given what we have to work with.

One thing I would like to address before going any further is the purpose of this bulletin and the purpose of the UAWF. First, the bulletin: I am not doing this every two weeks to in any way harm the wrestling business. I write this for the hard core fans; those who know that wrestling is a work and because of that fact, enjoy it even more. I am not out to expose the business to marks (even when a mark writes and request a sample issue, they usually brush off our casual attitude as the work of a maniac). The purpose of the bulletin is to entertain and educate which will hopefully intensify your love for the sport through inside knowledge. Knowledgeable fans will continue to be fans and will continue to support promotions with their dollars at the gate. We strive for truth in our reporting and when we're wrong about something, we'll let you know. Wrestling Forum, simply put, is a magic window, allowing us to gaze in on the secretive world of pro wrestling.

The United Association of Wrestling Fans on the other hand, is something a little different. It's an organization that salutes the fans, both those with inside knowledge and those without, and emphasizes the importance of the fan to the promotions. A promotion would not work with an underground publication like the Forum or the Observer, so the UAWF was created. The magazine is middle of the road so promotions can feel secure in working with us there. Along with celebrating the fans of the sport, we are able to offer some incentive for joining. Among those things are four magazines a year, a birthday card on or near your birthday signed by a wrestler or member of the wrestling community, discounts on merchandise, a video exchange and a once a year convention. You may join the Association at any time and dues are \$15.00 for a single membership and others in your immediate family may join for just an additional \$2.00 each per year. If you'd like more information, just drop a SASE to UAWF, Box 215, Galesburg, IL 61402.

For those of you who constantly complain about being able to get a hold of me, we have made things easier. I now have an answering machine that will be on whenever I'm not here. One bit of warning: It picks up on the 1st ring (and I can't do anything about it). One other thing... you never know who'll answer the phone around this place.

Well, there's one page out of the way. Let's take care of the second page by checking in with Jeff Siegel and the Wrestling Barometer...

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...except that due to some technical difficulties beyond my control, the Barometer is being pre-empted this month. The Postal Dis-service couldn't get the package here in four days and Jeff is out of town. We will continue with the Barometer next month as usual. Send you entries for "What's Hot" and "What's Not" to Jeff Siegel, Box 5461, Evanston, IL 60204. Deadline for votes will be 6/22.

And now for your enjoyment...

THE THIRD FALL

David shouldn't have been a wrestler. He was awful. If he hadn't had some family in the business, he probably wouldn't have been given a second look.. But David Findlay was given a chance.

The promotion usually used Findlay on opening events. They tried the best they could to hide him. On one card in 1972, Findlay went up against and lost to journeyman heel jobber Joe Turner. That was almost the final straw. Findlay decided right then and there that perhaps wrestling wasn't for him.

The problem was, wrestling was in his blood. His family in the business was well respected in wrestling circles. Perhaps if he had tried using his own name, his real name, he might have been able to get some sort of a push. But, believe it or not, his family members themselves were the ones who discouraged him from doing so. They were that embarrassed of him.

He finally quit wrestling. But still, there seems to be something about wrestling that gets in your blood that you just can't get out. David searched for something he could do within the business.

He was half heartedly accepted as a promoter. But he never made it big and he couldn't as long as his family was still involved in wrestling.

He went to his brother and father, who at the time were working in the business. They decided that the best way to have him stay in the business and yet not work in the ring would be to stick him behind a microphone. His work there, believe it or not, was better than in the ring. For you see, you've just been given a look at David Findlay, better known as David Crockett, and his first attempts at getting into wrestling.

Next time you complain about his announcing, remember it could be worse. He could be wrestling. Because now you know the outcome of the third fall.

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Never turns out to be a shorter period of time than we had originally thought. The AWA did or will book a show in a bar in Omaha Nebraska as a way to give some of their new guys like Derrick Dukas, Ricky Rice and Johnny Love some exposure time. Gee, guys...make up my mind!

This next is very interesting and I can't wait to find out how it turns out. The Midnight Rockers are not the AWA tag team champions and as a matter of fact, have been fired from the promotion. But last Saturday night (May 21) in Allentown Pennsylvania, they wore the belts into the ring for an independent show put on by the Trans World Wrestling Federation. They played the heel role against the hometown favorites, Nasty Boys. The Nasty Boys proceeded to beat the Rockers with a clean in the middle of the ring pinfall and were presented with the AWA tag team belts. The problem is (or was), Vernie knew absolutely nothing about any of this. The Rockers weren't supposed to have the belts in the first place and how they managed to get hold of them is still a mystery. The other problem is that the Nasty Boys have also been fired so how the AWA is going to get their belts back is even a bigger mystery. But remember...if they use the old angle where the champs throw the belts in a river or something and it shows up on one TV, it's probably a shoot.

Speaking of shoots, wouldn't it be poetic justice if the AWA invited them back for one more match...one against Billy Robinson and Brad Rheingans?

The AWA holds the trademark on the name "Midnight Rockers" so legally, Michaels and Janetty can't wrestle under that name again. They can do what they did in Continental a year or so ago and work as the Midnight Rock and Rollers, I guess, but something tells me that we'll be seeing a new Midnight Rockers team. I've heard that a prime candidate for one of the spots on the team is Johnny Love.

We told you so...I've been saying since January that Ricky Rice has one of the best looking dropkicks in the sport and that holds true. One of the reasons it looks so good is that he gets too close to his opponent and a lot of the time he connects HARD. He's bloodied up more than one nose in the past few weeks as a result of the move. I've been told that guys are getting a little leary of working with him on account of it.

I've had a chance to see Mando Guerro twice now and I don't think there's been anyone in recent memory who could spark up long distant memories of Billy Robinson. This guy is tremendous and now I know why all the West Coast readers were so high on him. There is absolutely no one in the universe that can do such a beautifully executed flying head scissors (most guys getting it done to them have to bend over and help the guy doing it hook his feet around their necks...with Mando, they just stand perfectly still and he does it all). Need I say I was impressed?

I also got my first real look at the new manager Diamond Dallas Page and I'm not terribly impressed. True, he is a new look as compared to most managers, but I think that that is something that may take me a while to get used to. He looks a lot like JT Southern with long blond hair and he comes out with a valet named Diamond Dolly (since when does a manager need a valet?).

For those of you who really want to see the AWA on ESPN, I've found that checking the TV Guide for 10:30 (central) on either Friday or Saturday nights. sometimes you get lucky.

Rocky Mountain Thunder is the name of a new wrestler, though it sounds more like the name of a country-western band. He carries a bag (with contents unknown), an American flag and an axe handle o the ring. This obviously is to distract fans from his wrestling ability which there is very little of.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

In the many months we'll be doing WAPT, I don't think we've ever had one from the World Class area. Well, as they say, there's a first time for everything. Our guest columnist prefers to remain nameless once again, but the following is based on his experience before and after the recent Parade of champions show on May 8.

KEVIN VON ERICH

Very quiet. He didn't have a lot to say, although when I mentioned Kay Fabe sheets, he grumbled some expletives and left...immediately.

KERRY VON ERICH

A real nice guy. He signed an autograph for both me and my daughter and son as well as posed for pictures. He seemed like he was a little out of touch with reality as he didn't respond to questions very well.

TERRY GORDY

A fun loving, hard partier. He was cordial with fans but he seemed as though he had more important things to do than stand around talking. This guy is huge!

ANGEL OF DEATH

My first mistake was calling him "Dave". We were alone, so it didn't expose the business to anyone except him. He was offended by my knowledge and it showed. He refused to talk and had some nasty things to say about newsletters.

JOE PEDICINO

Your correspondent was right, he was at the show. He was not Buddy Robert's mystery partner. I know because I saw him during that match. Anyway, he was the most charming of any those I met that day. He seemed to really care and was flattered that I recognized him. He asked what station I watched PWTW on and made some nice small talk about where I live. I wish I had longer to talk with him as he seemed to be very open during the short time I had.

BRUISER BRODY

I met him after the show and he was a little grumpy. I attributed that to a small payday. I was brave enough to ask a few questions, but he was non committal on everything. After meeting him, I wonder if this man has ever smiled in his life. I did see him signing a few autographs later on.

CHRIS ADAMS

I'm learning. I mentioned to him that Mike George had really "potatoed" him with that dropkick. He said, "That's an odd choice of words," and left. He wasn't receptive to smart fans, but those who approached him as marks did alright.

BLACK BART

Surprisingly soft spoken. And he didn't say "dad-burn" once during our conversation.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

No live report from Davenport like I had hoped for. For some reason, they cancelled the 5/28 show earlier in the week. The problem is, they didn't tell a whole lot of people (I was one of the lucky ones) and as a result, about 400 fans showed up at the auditorium to see the show that night. Guess who isn't going to be real welcome in the Quad Cities. It depends on who you talk to as to why the show was cancelled.

none of my sources in the NWA have anything to do with the business end of things really so I don't have their story. All I can relate to you is what the people at Palmer Auditorium and the local TV station told me. The arena folks said they were a little apprehensive that they hadn't sold a lot of advance tickets. That's not strange for the Quad Cities as there are no computerized outlets to buy tickets. All tickets are "hard tickets" (printed in advance and given to various businesses to sell) so the QC usually does a tremendous walk up business. I heard that the advance on the show was around 200. The TV station people tell me that Crockett's people were upset that their TV time is at 12:30 am, Mondays. But then came an excuse that was even stranger.

I was told that they had been in St. Louis the night before and that they had to return to Atlanta Saturday morning to tape TV. The return trip would have been too much physically and financially and that was the reason the show was scrapped. Trouble is, only four of the guys who appeared on the Saturday show were scheduled for Davenport that night. Those four were Sullivan, Perez, Nikita and Sting.

The Roadies were to have been on the Davenport card and the last time in to the QC, they sold out the 5100 seat arena. If there had been adequate (not good, just adequate) advertising for the show, they could have sold it out again. They did their local spots on the 12:30 am local show, but never was a mention of it made on TBS other than a remark in passing by the announcers. The QC loves cage matches so put that together with the Warriors and this could have been a lucrative trip. Lesson for the day: He who has tickets to sell, and goes and says it down a well, will never make as many dollars as the guy who climbs a tree and hollers.

Last issue we reported a rumor that Ted Turner might be purchasing the NWA from the Crocketts. Here's the latest. Nothing concrete has been worked out as of Friday night (the 28th). Last Sunday, they hyped the living daylights out of the Omni card that night because Turner's people were to be in attendance and they wanted the NWA to look hot in Atlanta. The hype worked as they drew well (about 7000, I understand). Latest word I have is that Crockett has drawn up the deal and presented it to Turner and all that is left is for Ted to okay the deal. Again, let me stress that this is all a rumor at this point, but it seems to be the most repeated of all the stories floating around. Conjecture on the status of front office people at this point is a waste of time (although a fun waste), but I wouldn't expect any major changes for a while even if the sale goes through.

I do know this. Whoever came up with this next stroke of genius should be fired immediately. The Miami Mayhem show coming up on June 8th live on TBS will feature a bout between Al Perez and Nikita Koloff. Understand this about Miami: A whole bunch of the population down there is Hispanic and/or Cuban. These people LOVE the United States and they LOVE Ronald Reagan. They HATE Communism. So here's Gary Hart doing local interview spots for the show telling the Hispanics to come out and support one of their own, Al Perez against that Commie Nikita Koloff. Believe me, they will. And Nikita Koloff, one of Crockett's top babyfaces is going to get his butt booed on National LIVE TV.

Dusty's cheek full of chew was working overtime on the last TBS show. He came out to do an interview and was greeted by catcalls and chants of "BARRY! BARRY!" He came close to losing his composure once

and the jaws kept gnashing away at his tobacco, slightly more animated than usual. I'm afraid from past experience though, that this won't mean he'll step out of the spotlight, rather he'll figure he has to push himself all the harder to get over. Boy is THAT something to look forward to, huh?

There seem to be a couple of angles that have drifted off into never never land. The first is the thing they did with Kevin Sullivan and Precious. The week after they showed the clip on TV, they didn't follow it up. This week, I thought they were going to because Tony asked Sullivan about it when he came out to do his interview, and Sullivan briefly mentioned it before going into an incoherent interview. Now for fans who are used to his mumbo-jumbo and who read newsletters, I made sense. I doubt if many more fans other than that understood anything he said.

What he was doing was hyping the Triple tower of Doom match to be held in Baltimore on July 10. It will be like the World Class fiasco on the Parade of Champions (I really shouldn't say "fiasco" because I have talked to some who enjoyed it though the construction of the ring and cages made it impossible to take any bumps) except that from what he said it looks like everyone will start in the top cage and work their way to the bottom. Look for the 7/10 card to start getting a bunch of hype over the next few weeks as that is where their next pay per view event will take place.

Inside that cage will be the Roadies, the Garvins and Doc against The Perverted Powers, Sullivan, Rotunda and I believe, Al Perez. Also on the card is Flair vs Luger in Flair's ONLY title defense of the Bash tour plus a Arn/Tully vs Sting/Nikita match for the tag titles.

The pay per view is significant because it has cleared about 85% of the homes that were offered Wrestlemania. This effectively eliminates the monopoly that Titan had on the industry. The impressive showing of the first Clash of Champions influenced a lot of the cable operators and they are for the most part ignoring the exclusivity clause in Titan's pay per view ventures. One must remember that the Clash actually outdrew WMIV in television viewers.

Getting back to the other forgotten angle, the Road Warriors, Hawk in particular, did another stretcher job for the perverted Powers and they've yet to follow up on that. Meanwhile, as that feud winds down, the Roadies are getting some better quality opponents around the country facing off against the Midnight Express and the Shepherders in several cities. It has been rumored for quite some time now that the Road Warriors are going to have to split up in order to get over again. But the question is, would the fans really believe that these two hate each other after being together for so long. It might turn out the same as the Gordy-Hayes feud in World class where it just didn't draw. Better than a turn, the Roadies need to go back to their old style of complete annihilation of opponent with no regard to rules. It wouldn't be turning them heels, rather, it would be turning them back into maniacs. Let them lose every match they wrestle in by DQ if they have to, but let them go back to destroying everything in their path. This is what they did with Crusher and Bruiser several years back when they became stale and they started drawing again.

Getting back to the Bash tour, it would appear that almost every card has some sort of a gimmick match headlining it. There are all sorts of War Games planned and even a few scaffold matches. This sounds to me like the act of desperate people as they are depending on the gimmicks to draw rather than the angles and feuds they have going. That is the booker's fault without any argument.

Another thing that is being set up, though we haven't been privy to complete details yet is the series of matches coming our way between

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the Fantastics and the Midnight express. Ever since they shoved Jim Cornette's face in the cake, he's been coming out and making goofy faces into the camera claiming that he may be a little crazy. Now the Fantastics are claiming that he is crazy and are talking about having him put in a straight jacket. This past weekend on TBS the two had a confrontation (actually three of them; I was counting Tommy and Bobby as one) where the Tics were threatening him with a straight jacket and Cornette claiming that he was "Crazy like a fox." My guess is a bunch of gimmick matches are headed our way during the bash tour where Jim will wind up wearing a straight jacket for the duration of the matches. If so, they're going to have to make a trip to a Magic shop or a Hollywood prop shop because straight jackets haven't been used in over twenty years. Anyway, the confrontation ended with Cornette claiming that he and the Express were the ones responsible for the high ratings and that if he pulled out of the show, the ratings would drop and Ted Turner would have to resort to running reruns of Mighty Mouse in that time slot. He stormed off the set saying that neither he nor his team would appear on the show anymore. I can hear the marks now..."THEY'RE JUMPING TO THE WWF!"

I mentioned earlier that the 7/10 show from Baltimore would be Flair's only title defense of the 45 day bash tour. The rest of the time they're going to hide him in tag teams. I also have heard that Barry Windham's only defense of the US title will take place on the Baltimore card against Dusty Rhodes. Someone on the past weekend's show mentioned that there could be titles changing every night. Sure doesn't look that way from here! If they really wanted to confuse the newsletter people, they could drive us crazy by changing titles once or twice a week during the bash. I know I'd be pulling my hair out by the handfuls and I'm not even the one that keeps track of title changes; Sean is.

May is the month that quite a few of the contracts expire so that may be part of the reason for Crockett being so anxious to sell the promotion to Turner. He's having a tough time meeting payroll, or at least I've been told that. The way their paydays work is like this: A wrestler is guaranteed a certain amount per week for the length of his contract. Let's say that amount is \$1000 per week and the contract runs for 26 weeks. That means that he would earn \$26,000 over that period. He may not be paid all of that however. He gets a draw on his guarantee of maybe \$500 per week with the balance to be paid at the end of the contracted period. So instead of making 26K during the time period specified, he makes 13K with the other 13K to be made up in a balloon payment. Realize these figures are not accurate, but this is the way I had it explained to me for simplicity sake. I hope I got it right. Anyway, many of the balloon payments have come due. Crockett has had no problems making the weekly advances or draws, but the balloon payments are giving him headaches. At least two wrestlers have been put off being told they would have to wait until after the pay per view show on the 10th of July, so obviously they are planning on making a bunch of money from that venture. Trouble is, that's six weeks away and if they don't get the money after that show, then all they've done is waste another six weeks with the NWA. Offers from Titan may be looking awfully good to a few guys (most of them borderline guys anyway) right about now.

And finally, Kevin Sullivan has been coming to the ring to watch Ron Simmons work the same way he came out to watch Mike Rotundo when the Varsity Club thing started. Look for something to pop here in the next couple of weeks, or at least before the bashes, whether it sets up a new feud for Sullivan or whether Simmons becomes a VC member. So far, Simmons has been ignoring him so there's no hints one way or another.

PENCIL POINTS

RESPONSES TO THE TABLOID

I read with interest the letter from the creton at the scum sheet. I find it amazing that people can find any explanation to fit their asinine behavior. You should do a story just for them entitled, "Your Favorite Lie Reveals Your Level of Retardation."

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

I'm cured. These jokers would invariably get me to buy their rag just from the front cover stories while I stood in the checkout lane. But after reading the letter you printed last issue, I've found a way to quit my nasty habit. Thanks.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Los Angeles, CA-

I think your response to "Open Rebuttal" in your last issue was rather harsh. I was amazed at your tirade and namecalling. Come on; that is just what THEY want. I agree with what the tabloid writer said except for two sentences. The one about the "lower IQ level" was uncalled for, and his last sentence about "the truth has to be stretched in both cases" was hilarious. You and I know that the info given by Vince, Dusty and Verne associates is not always on the level and you even joke about it in your publication.

I also agree with Ron Dobratz that Barry Windham was the wrong choice for the horsemen. Steve Williams would have done a much better job.

-JIM COOK-

-Mount Auburn, IL-

MEMORIES/BRONX CHEERS TO THE TOURNEY

This last issue sparked several memories. The image of Larry Sea-biscuit jawing with the ref he always dubbed Squirrley Whoerle is classic. Also, the "unidentified cohort" of Jack Reynolds must have been big "Tex" McKenzie, a gangly awkward but somewhat loveable face who did the color duties on the old IWA show.

I gotta tell you, Jon. I think the 128 man Tournament is a terrible idea ineptly executed. First off, the idea that the wrestlers win or lose based on the votes of readers is beyond my comprehension. What is that supposed to mean? Wrestlers don't win or lose based on votes like politicians. They are characters in a storyline. The whole point that a single intelligence (or whatever passes as such in pro wrestling circles) weaves these many wrestlers into a coherent pecking order. Finally, granted that you're going to do this thing, simply printing the won-lost is beyond meaningless, it's bor-ing. If you must do this thing, at least get yourself a wrestling simulation and play it out for heaven's sake.

By the way, I'm kind of involved in this on-line computer deal called Q-Link. Anybody with a Commodore 64 computer can "link up" and communicate via modem and phone lines. We (Arnie Katz and myself) do a wrestling seminar once a month and frequently relate major new stories (we list the sources, always, with sub rates and addresses for you or Dave or whoever). Anyway, last winter I created the idea of "on line wrestling" where users create a wrestler, name him, dole out a fixed number of attribute points (as in Dungeons and Dragons, sports and combat simulations) and then match him against other user's wrestlers. It's fun, I guess, though I don't participate myself. Still, I thought you'd like to know about this phenomenon.

-BILL KUNKEL-

-Woodbury, NY-

EDITOR: The tournament was conceived by Sean and designed by Sean all for fun. I thought it was fun and evidently so do enough readers to keep it going; this is it's third year. I agree that wins and losses are basically meaningless since the whole concept of wrestling is a never ending morality play. However, Promoter Bob Luce once said, "No matter how much we know or how much we think we know, we're still all a bunch of marks." Results and wins-losses are really our last link to markdom. Besides...I have fun thinking up different words for "beat" when giving the results.

RING CONSTRUCTION

Your description of a ring (V314) contains some incorrect physics. That spring in the center of the ring is NOT what gives the ring bounce. The ring is bouncy because it is supported at the edges. This is easily demonstrated by walking across a long plank propped up at each end (try it - you'll be surprised how springy a thick board can be). Placing a spring in the center of the ring increases the resistance of the ring surface to deformation (it is obviously easier to depress the ring surface if nothing is under it) and therefore actually decreases the bounce. The spring probably serves a structural function - the center of the ring may not be strong enough to withstand the impact of a 300 pound wrestler without some sort of support. Incidentally, the nwa ring has a significantly different construction. It uses full length 1 x 2 boards instead of plywood sheets.

-BOBBY BAUM-
-Bethesda, MD-

EDITOR: Thank you for straightening us out on that. I have now seen four rings constructed and I don't think that any two were the same. The ring for Windy City does not have a spring at all and it's frame work for the flooring is just a series of support rods crisscrossing. That ring had the most bounce I've ever seen.

JUST FOR FUN

I'd like you to do an article sometime on what kind of wrestler YOU would be if given the chance. What, if any would your gimmick be, heel or face, you know, just for fun, create your character. Who knows... maybe Vince will give you a call. Or maybe he'll steal the character.

-BRIAN JACKSON-
-Philadelphia, PA-

EDITOR: What kind of wrestler would I be? A terrible one. That's why I bought the typewriter. I guess I would rely on my God given ugliness to play a role somewhat like Ric Flair, but a clod. I would claim to be able to cast my "vibes" out and only the perfect woman for me would be able to receive the vibes. But it would always be the fattest, ugliest girl we could find that would somehow receive the vibes. naturally, the character would be a heel, but strictly from comedy. hopefully that would cover up my inability to wrestle (even though very few wrestlers have been able to pull that off).

EMILY

I don't know what all the fuss is about. I understood every word Steve Williams said on that interview and it made sense to me.

-EMILY LATRELLA-
-New York City-

EDITOR: That figures.

MEMPHIS

There seems to be some bad blood brewing here between the Jarretts and Continental. All mention of Eddie and Missy have stopped cold, something like what Titan does to their dearly departed. I'm not sure why, and I've heard enough stories that I can't even pick out the truth from the fiction, but the theme of each story seems to have something to do with stolen angles. I won't tell you anymore until I know more myself. If I tried, I'd just be wasting space.

The finals of the Renegades Rampage are coming to an end finally. They are saying that Max Paine is leading the tournament, but there was a three ring battle royal this past week in Memphis where the winners would have a bunch of points added to their totals. The finals are scheduled for 6/6.

Part of the reason for the aforementioned problems may be with Robert Fuller heading into Memphis. He had been booker in Continental and with Gilbert being a big cog here, there may be some ideas that were exchanged and just by coincidence, use. Enough of the speculation.

Lawler's first AWA title defense was against Bill Dundee. It was a babyface match for the most part though Lawler won the thing by using a foreign object.

Here we go with another three way feud it looks like. Curt Hennig will be spending some time here so that Gagne doesn't have to pay his weekly guarantee. He was told that he could have a rematch with Lawler for the AWA title, but he had to hold the CWA title in order to get that. Hennig's manager down here is Brickhouse Brown and he also manages the CWA champion Max Paine. Brown insisted that Paine give the title to Hennig and Paine said "NO!" so it would look like Paine will remain a semi heel, but feud with Hennig and Brown as well playing the babyface role there. I like these three way match ups.

Brother Ernest is gone, Praise the Lord (pun intended)! He was having his share of problems outside the ring and the Jarretts decided that the publicity generated from his extracurricular activities weren't worth the headaches.

With the standing feud going on now between CWF and CWA, it might not be long before Bruno makes a comeback. Nothing like stealing some of the competition. Don't read into this: This is just a Gallagher guess.

A WRESTLING FORUM TOP TEN with apologies to David Letterman

This article is not meant to antagonize anyone, rather it is just another example of an overworked editor's strange sense of humor. We hope that anyone offended at this will remember the vein it was written in.

TOP TEN THINGS TO DO WITH AN AWA PAYCHECK

10. Use as a paperweight.
9. Invest it all in Penny-stocks.
8. Use the back to scribble phone messages.
7. Make a bank teller lose control falling on the floor in uncontrollable laughter while you grab some real money out of their drawer.
6. Practicing origami.
5. Teaching youngsters to count to very low numbers.
4. Save like greenstamps to buy a cup of coffee.
3. Save in case Verne Gagne's autograph is valuable someday in the distant future.
2. Take to the welfare office to prove income for foodstamps and other governmental help.
1. Play basketball with it.

And, in the interest of equal time, here are the top five things you can do with a copy of the Forum if you are a promoter (the wrestler I talked with could only come up with five on short notice).

5. Use to start backyard bar-be-ques with.
4. Use to quote low attendance figures with in case audited by IRS.
3. Use to quote high attendance figures to with prospective investors.
2. Use as an enema in case you ever meet the editor.
1. To prove to friends and relatives that all insane people are not institutionalized...that they write for and to wrestling newsletters.

CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH

There seems to be slim pickin's this month as far as class acts go. At first I hesitated naming the eventual winner because the act was a personal favor to me, but then...well, let's just sort this out a little bit at a time.

The Class Act for May 1988 is the entire Windy City Wrestling Promotion. They were gracious hosts in Dixon for not only myself, but my family and two readers as well. This in itself, though, would not garner them the award. Many would say that they were being nice to us in order to be assured of a good write up (it doesn't work that way, but some would be quick to say that anyway). Instead, they get the award for cooperating 120% with the United Association of Wrestling Fans.

As you know, members in the UAWF are promised a birthday card on their birthday, signed by a wrestler or some member of the wrestling community. The guys at Pro Wrestling Illustrated obliged with signatures as have the Central States group, Joe Pedicino, Gordon Solie and Bonnie Blackstone of Pro Wrestling this Week, and a few independent wrestlers from various promotions who wanted to help out. We asked the Windy City folks to sign a bunch of cards, maybe one or two signatures each. When we got the cards back, we were surprised to find that every single member of the babyface roster had signed EACH AND EVERY CARD! It took a lot of time on their part and a lot of effort on the part of the front office personnel to help out the UAWF and we appreciate it. When I expressed my thanks, I was told, "Anything for the fans."

It's reassuring that some promotions will still go to those lengths to please a few fans.

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH

There weren't a whole lot of nominees to choose from in the Dipstick side of the ledger this month either.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the creeps from a certain national tabloid, but since I refuse to even recognize their existence anymore, we can't give it to them for the second month in a row.

Dusty's up to his old tricks again, but that's nothing new for him, so we have to pass him up also. I know he'll be hurt.

I guess we'll go with what appears to be a pretty good choice anyway, the Midnight Rockers for their little escapade in Allentown, PA.

I still don't know how they managed to get the AWA belts in their possession, but the fact is, the AWA did not know they had them. Losing them to the Nasty Boys was obviously a childish (however funny) was of flipping off their former employers. What they didn't possibly realize at the time was the effect this could have had on wrestling.

Fortunately only a thousand or so fans were in attendance at the show. Readers of this bulletin and of other bulletins will know as well, but then again, we're not going to be broadcasting it to the entire wrestling world. What the Rockers did could have hurt the business a bunch, especially in the small independent market where they worked. Fans there will wonder how Bad Company managed to get the belts from the Nasty Boys (since the AWA will never recognize the change). All in all, their little practical joke is going to cost them more than they gained...it will probably keep them from ever working a show of any significance again. It will probably be yet another step towards blackballing them altogether.

I hate to add salt to the wound, but this was a classic dipstick move if ever there was one.

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the phantom is back...

PHANTOM OF THE RING

by Ed Garea

THE ART OF BLACKLISTING

I had originally planned to do this column on another subject, but a letter from Dore DeQuattro in the April 30 edition was asking me to do an article on blacklisting. Never one to turn down a request (after all, you people are the ones who make all this possible), I will now proceed to look at what has surely been refined into a practical art by promoters.

Blacklisting is as old as the sport itself, though not really practiced in its modern form until the formation of the wrestling "trusts" during the 1920's. In its first form, the blacklisted wrestler (then, as now, one who would not "play ball" - cooperate) would usually have to face the "policeman", usually a tough crony of the champ, in order to secure a shot at the champ. The policeman was one whose job it was to make sure that the renegade never received that shot. This was the system that Frank Gotch operated under; his policeman was one Yankee Rogers. If the rebel could somehow get past Rogers, he was then assured a title shot. But Rogers was one tough cookie and no one got past without learning the way the system was run. The rebel, by then, gained much wisdom and learned that he was to give Gotch a good match, but then lose. The funny thing about Rogers was that he was capable of removing the title belt from Gotch, but saw more money in the policeman role.

With the advent of promotional syndicates, blacklisting became simpler: Hook the champ (doublecross) and you don't work for us again. Of course, that didn't prevent such shenanigans from taking place. In the mid-20s, the trust headed by Toots Mondt and his "enforcer" Strangler Lewis (to really understand the nature of professional wrestling, it is required to study the structure and history of organized crime; the comparisons are breathtaking) decided to put over former Michigan football player Wayne "Big" Munn. They wanted to bolster the image and gate receipts of the game by bringing in an All-American image and Munn was well known throughout the country for his football prowess. He was to have a relatively easy title defense against the fifty-plus year old former champ Stanislaus Zbyszko. Unfortunately, Zbyszko made quick work of the untalented champ and won the belt. To correct things, Lewis faced Zbyszko in his first title defense. He not only defeated Zbyszko easily, but also injured the old man in the process. Zbyszko was never to work in the States again, retiring to Europe and movies. He turned in a memorable performance in the 1950 film "Night and the City".

However, being blacklisted did not necessarily mean that other wrestlers were safe. Gus Sonnenberg, the 220 pound heavyweight "champion" of the world was pummeled in full view of a crowd of spectators by a 140 pound blacklisted wrestler who was nursing a grudge against the promoters. And it was not only wrestlers who found themselves on the

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blacklist. Promoters could also be placed there too. The most famous case of this was Jack Pfeiffer, who was squeezed out of the Toot 'Mondt-Jack Curley-Ray Fabiani trust. Pfeiffer tried to make it on his own but found himself also squeezed out of the larger arenas (sound familiar?) by the trust.

As we have seen, the most common reason for blacklisting was the refusal of a wrestler to do a "job". But other factors were at work in some cases. Jimmy Londos could not defend his belt in several states because of outstanding felony warrants due to fraud. Londos was involved in several con games in his early days in he business. The most common swindle was for him to dress in painter's garb, sit next to the prospective pigeon and claim to the pigeon (usually a fellow Greek) that he could beat the victor in the bout. Of course, Londos was backed by the pigeon's betting money, then proceeded to enter the ring and lose. Afterwards, big Jim and his cohorts in the ring would split the winnings.

The most bizzare case of a blacklist occurred in the mid 1950's when Lou Thesz was scheduled to drop the strap in Houston, Texas to George Gordienko. But Gordienko never made the date or any others for a few years. He was not allowed to enter this country from Canada because of his membership in the Communist Party. He thus fell victim to the biggest blacklist of all.

Nowadays, nothing like that is occurring and we are back to the standard reason for blacklisting, namely, the refusal to do jobs. This is why Bruiser Brody, Stan Hansen and David Shultz are blacklisted by the main promotions. Brody is famous for his refusals. Many fans remember the shooting match that took place in Japan between Brody and Seiki Sakaguchi over Brody's refusal to do a job. If Brody wasn't so popular in Japan, he probably wouldn't be working there today. Same with Hansen, who had hardly worked a day in the U. S. since his disappearance before he was to drop the AWA strap to Nick Bockwinkel. David Shultz was conveniently allowed to blacklist himself after striking John Stossel during the now famous 20/20 broadcast. To this day, I still maintain that Shultz was set up by McMahon. If you remember, there were no officials of the WWF with Shultz and Stossel. Knowing what kind of character Shultz was, isn't it odd that no WWF official was around to mediate the interview? Shultz confines himself to the independent circuit today, training other wrestlers in his spare time.

And there are times when a wrestler does it to himself, either by drug use (as in the case of Jimmy Snuka) or personal problems, as in the case of a Buzz Sawyer or a Buddy Landel. Some simply become disillusioned with the business and maintain a local schedule, if they work at all, as in the case of the Great Wojo and Bob Backlund. Others, such as Gilles Poisson, quit the business altogether due to disillusionment. In these cases, look for the shadowy figure of the promoter nearby. These are cases of "voluntary" blacklisting.

I hope i've answered your query, Dore. And I also thank you very much for your letter, for i would never have thought of this column otherwise.

CALGARY STAMPEDE by Trent Walters

I'll begin with the number one question in wrestling today (actually! the number two...the number one being "how many ohins does Dusty Rhodes have?"): Is Owen Hart going to be WWF? 99% yes, unfortunately. But here are some of the reasons he would not go:

- 1) Unsure of gimmick/name. Some of the possibilities are Owen Hart, Tiger Mask, Mighty Mouse, Cheetah Kid. I'm sure you get the picture.
- 2) He wants to wrestle Ric Flair. I'm told the gate menas nothing. He wants to have the match of the century with Flair.
- 3) Inoki (New Japan) may give Owen an offer he can't refuse. I'd say this is the only thing that could stop this injustice to the people in Alberta.

There is a lot of news...Makhan Singh beat Owen for the North American belt May 6 in Calgary. The finsih saw Makhan reverse a blind sunset flip with the help of Valcan Singh (who is currently working spots). Jason the Terrible got suspended May 13 in order to let him be Barry Gasper in Japan. John Smith is a good bet to win the Mid-Heavyweight belt from Chris Enoit mid-June as Chris heads for Japan in July.

The babyfaces are getting injured right and left. Suni war Cloud, Biff Wellington (arm) and Brick Bronsky (who received a twelve stitch cut to his head courtesy of Kerry Brown and a chair). Jon Holiday is suspended in Edmonton for slapping a fan (Jon was hit first). Holiday won't turn since all the babyfaces are out.

Steve Blackman debuted May 13 as a babyface. The Twin Towers start May 20. These might be the Bruise Brothers from Memphis.

Don't be surprised if a number of wrestlers from World Class come up here. No names, but people call them Terry Taylor, Chris Adams and Angel of Death. I guess those are names. Bob Orton is also a name (read between the lines with Orton, okay?). Gama Singh returned May 13 and they ran a good angle May 14 in Edmonton with Gama coming out of nowhere (I did not even know he was back) to the ring after the Owen match and try to throw fire in his eyes. Gama did it in January 1987 in Calgary and the commission won't allow it anymore. Good angle.

Top feuds are/will be Brown-Bronsky, Benoit-Smith, Bad Company-Makhan/Gama with a possibility of Makhan-DiSalvo (heel vs heel).

I have some horrible news but first WAPT with Jason the Terrible, aka Karl "Butch" Moffat. Incredible worker and brawler. Never talk to him as Jason can't talk (not supposed to anyhow). Next WAPT is Owen Hart...or is it Mighty Mouse?

Bad news is a rumor going around between the boys that Stu is going to close up. Crowds are going to be horrible this summer without Owen and Jason (Jason for a while). They will wait till fall before any major decision.

Wanna trade tapes or gossip, contact me, Trent Walters, 22 Gresham Blvd, St. Albert, AB Canada T8N 1A9, phone (403) 459-3585.

GLOBAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

by Jeff Bowdren

The latest GWA tapings took place on 5/28. As usual, lots of angles, some of which were easily understood and some that weren't.

Among the confusing ones was the one surrounding the tag titles. At the last tapings, Joe & Dean Malenko won the GWA tag belts from Rusty Brooks and Jumbo Baretta. In the first hour, Joe and Dean defended the belts with father Boris Malenko in their corner. The second hour saw a rematch between the Malenkos and the former champs. After a typically good match with the four, Joe pinned Jumbo. As the Malenkos celebrate, Boris enters the ring and lights his victory cigar. Rusty knocks into Boris who drops the cigar and "burns" Dean. This sets up a big grudge match in the fourth hour as Rusty and Jumbo take on Joe and No, not Dean, (he couldn't get "medical clearance") the legendary Boris Malenko! The crowd really popped when Boris came out in his wrestling attire. Brooks and Baretta were being managed by Ox Baker (excuse me. Make that the "legendary" Ox Baker) who has turned so often in the space of three months that the fans could care less about him. The confusing part is that before the third hour, announcer Bob Roop stated that Rusty and Jumbo were new GWA tag team champs. This could be because of one of two reasons. Either Ox mentioned that the wrong man was pinned in the last set of tapings in the title match, or they could do a title change at a card that takes place on June 17 in Davie, FL, one night before this show airs. The match starts and before long Boris comes in to a great response and begins wrestling in 1960 style. Believe it or not, the crowd loved it! A melee ensues where Ox gives Boris the dreaded heart punch. The one eyed Dean does a run in with a chain (Boris specialized in Russian Chain matches) and clears the heels out of the ring. As the heels head for the dressing room, Boris picks up a chair and starts swinging. He chases the heels behind a curtain leading to their dressing room. While behind the curtain, he slams the chair into the wall three times. Naturally the marks think he's beating up the heels. When he emerges from behind the curtain, the crowd just erupts. Real good stuff.

More on the tapings next time...one thing...Jumbo Baretta said to be approaching WWF quality.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Just some random stuff to start off with here. First off, business is better, so much so that managers have started reappearing on the arena shows. They are also working a full schedule again which translates to something of two to three shows per night. Attendance is not up from last year, rather it is staying pretty well the same. That is a bit of a victory, because last year at this time they had Hogan to headline shows where this year they're depending on Savage vs DiBiase. They had planned on attendance being lower than last year and that was the reason for the announce cutbacks. Since there has been no significant decrease, they are going full ahead with business as normal.

You'll probably have the chance to see the generic interviews with Mean Gene hosting the "Event Center" for your city. I think that what we ought to do is just list all the matches and their outcomes, then list the cities the matches took place in for our results section. There is virtually no variation at all in the outcomes and I've heard from two readers in different parts of the country who attended two different shows on different nights with the same line ups and they both reported that the matches are almost step by step the same including time of matches. C'mon guys...a little variety never hurt anyone.

Hulk Hogan and wife Linda are the proud parents of a baby girl born a couple of weeks back. Congrats go out to the new parents and daughter Brooke who weighed in at 10 lbs, 1 oz (that's a monster!) on May 5.

We'll check that first paragraph. Managers who are important are still going on the road. Slick and Oliver humperdink are not. In fact, about the only place they're showing up is TV tapings and then sometimes not even there. You think they're trying to tell these two guys something?

The last set of TV tapes were done in Minnesota, not in California as we had told you last issue. The ones coming up this week will be from Oakland and Fresno. I just got three weeks ahead of myself. Sorry. Some things did come out of the tapings, though not much.

The first thing was to re-intensify the Savage-DiBiase feud. Savage took on Virgil and our worst fears were confirmed. Soul Train has been standing at ringside with Ted everynight now for quite a few months, but evidently he hasn't absorbed any ring knowledge at all. Savage won the match but afterwards, Virgil and Ted doubled up on him and ended up stuffing a hundred dollar bill in Randy's mouth. Actually the match wasn't that bad with Savage carrying it, and Soul Train did try, but the body guard role is perfect for him. He scowls real well.

The second thing was to make sure everyone knows Bret Hart is a babyface now. During his match, Jimmy Hart came out with his megaphone and started cheering him on. Brett sent him back to the dressing room, then went onto squash his opponent. We don't know yet the status of Jim Neidhart as he did a mini on-screen interview taking Bret's side in the Bad News Brown feud. I also know that Neidhart is taking on Brown in a few selected cities across the country. Could be a showcase for Neidhart to see if he'd work out as a face.

Sean called in the latest Madison Square Garden report and one of the most interesting angles was the turning of the Fabulous Rougeaus (as they are now billed). They were matched up with the Young Stallions and when the Rougeaus entered the ring, they shook hands with EVERYBODY. They shook with Roma and Powers. They shook with the referee. They shook with Howard Finkel. They shook with the peanut vendor and the scrub lady. After every move, they shook again. It looked like a summit conference rather than a wrestling match. At one point after shoving Roma back into the turnbuckles after a lock up, one of the brothers mussed up Roma's hair like he was a little kid. The Rougeaus were booed in

the Garden, but on a later interview, they came out and said they loved the J's and that they realized fans were confusing them with Dino Bravo and they understood that. It was a babyface interview and they were still unmercifully booed.

There is no word at this point if Titan will counter either the June 8 Clash show on TBS or the July 10 PPV event from Baltimore with another show on USA or other. Perhaps after the bath they took on WMIV they've decided that they'll give Crockett enough rope in hopes that he'll hang himself. Crockett won't hang himself though. Dusty will do the honors.

Some more on the rumor that Terry Taylor is headed in...again, it remains a rumor, but comes from a very good source. I'm told that if he does, he will assume a Ric Flair role, being virtually a carbon copy of Flair. Taylor has always wanted to do something like this and this could be his chance. Of course, his workrate will be shot to hell, but I guess you can't ask for everything.

Big Bubba has already started working "C" team shows as the Big Boss Man. The character is the prison guard that we've talked about. Word is that he is destroying everything in his path and not selling a thing. He'll make his debut on the California TV tapings. Without a doubt, with him not selling and destroying everyone, he'll be Hogan's next indestructible opponent.

Speaking of Hogan, the latest I hear on the title decision (whether to give it back to him) is that it will be left up to him. I don't personally buy that story; Vince and Linda McMahon aren't the type of people who let others dictate to them when it comes to making money.

When the Midnight Rockers took off with the AWA belts last week, I think they also raided the AWA closet and came back with the old weasel suit that Bobby Heenan used to wear on occasion. Anyway, they've pulled this next out of the past. Heenan had been beating Koko B Ware on a regular basis in tag matches so now he's announcing that he's coming out of retirement. He says he's signed an open contract to face any man no matter how big. He even agrees to put on the weasel suit if he loses. That's when they spring the surprise on him that he'll be wrestling the Ultimate Dingbat on the upcoming cards. At MSG, Heenan came flying out of the dressing room and put on a great tantrum when they announced it. Verne could run the picture of him in that weasel suit enough after he skipped out of the AWA for Titan back in 84.

Locally, Titan has not been able to get local TV back in the Peoria market and with some of the crowds generated there, I doubt if it breaks their heart. Chicago seems to be getting shows mainly on Sunday nights and mean Gene mentioned that Sunday night cards are becoming a tradition in Chicago. With the way he drops names (always mentioning Mike Ditka) I wonder if he'll drop the Bears' first round draft choice this year Brad Muster's name. Muster is a confirmed NWA fan and makes no bones about it.

To squelch a rumor...word was out that Big Bubba had been fired before he could start. I talked to someone lastnight who would know and basically what he said was that me telling him was the first he had heard about it.

The next pay per view event will come from Madison Square Garden on 8/28, but as far as I know they haven't released anything definite on that card yet. Even if they had, they have the habit of forgetting things anyway and could change it all in a weeks time.

Bam Bam Bigelow is doing clean-as-a-hospital-bed-sheet jobs all around. I hope they're paying him well because it's not likely his ego will stand up to that for too long. If they ever turn him, they're going to have to really come up with a hot angle to do it the way they've destroyed his myth here since WMIV.

WINDY CITY WRESTLING

I attended a set of TV tapings for this group on May 22 in Dixon, IL along with about 200 other fans. The show was a benefit for the Fraternal Order of Police of Lee County. I had some mixed emotions about the show that I'll get to later.

The announced line up for the show was close to what actually happened. At least five of the matches scheduled to take place did, but still, here was a rash of no shows. The most notable was Paul E. Dangerously who I swear (along with two other readers) was seen driving around the gymnasium before the show. The story I was given was that he blew out his knee the night before, but it was never announced to the crowd why he wasn't there.

The card opened with Frank "the Tank" Melson, a Jerry Blackwell lookalike, teaming with Stormy Apollo against the Tokyo Bullets 1 & 2. Melson got the pin over one of the "japanese" guys after a slam and splash. During the match, Frank hit one of them with a clothesline and the guy did a 360! I was impressed. Stormy has room for improvement, Frank is very impressive for having been in wrestling less than a year, and the Bullets (aside from looking more Italian than Japanese) were small, but very proficient at taking bumps. I gave the match a C+.

Next up was Larry the Bull (formerly known as Larry the Butcher Cameron) taking on the good Shepherd. Larry was heavily cheered on his entrance, but he soon turned that around by hurling insults at his "fans". He pretty well squashed Shepherd and had to carry the match. Poor Shepherd didn't know what to do when he got booed at the beginning. He stood in the ring with a look on his face like, "Hey! I'M the good guy here!". Match gets a C+, mainly for Larry and the way he worked the crowd.

Sonny Rogers and Johnny Stewart, better known as the Beach Boys, then wrestled the Texas Hangmen, two gigantic muscleheads under hoods. The first five minutes were good, and the Hangmen's ring technology was okay, but they had no clue how to work and build a match. Sonny got a hot tag and instead of beating up both heels, he could only beat on one, because the other one just stood there and watched. There were a lot of missed moves after the five minute mark and the end was as silly as I've ever seen. Both Hangmen were choking Johnny Stewart while Sonny was staggering around outside the ring. Referee Mike Figurora counted to six (not five, not ten...six) and disqualified...both teams. Huh? Match got a D, all for Sonny who was excellent. Without him, we would have seen at least one Z.

Confession time. I have never seen a title change hands live. I have now. Candi DeVine took the WCW ladies title from Awesome Oni Austin in a very confusing match. Oni is small (so small, I thought I would hear her say, "Follow the yellow brick road") and has a tattoo on her arm. I have to wonder about women that get tattoos, but that's another story. Anyway, no one knew who the face or heel was here as Candi came out with a manager but Oni was abusive towards just about everyone. Referee Eddie Sharkey took a bump and Oni did a fantastic move, climbing to the top ropes and doing a flying (and I mean FLYING) headbutt on Candi. No ref, so they continued. Oni went into the ropes, but Honey B, a Chicago TV personality who looks a lot like Dump Matsumoto (only Dump's more attractive) tripped her coming off and Candi got the pin. Then for some reason, Candi's manager and Honey started fighting (not the right verb, but close) and Honey and Oni ended up walking out together. I must have missed something. Match got a C-.

Speaking of the Yellow Brick Road, 147 year old Lord Little Brook then wrestled Coco. Don't know and don't care who won.

They announced that they had been having an elimination tag team tournament over the past few weeks and tonight was the finals. It pitted The Windy City Dream Team (Lance Allen and Eddie Strong, I think) against the Terminators, Rigs and Wolf. They were accompanied to the ring by

their manager for the evening, Tony Montana. Tony did very little and made Gary Hart look like jim Cornette. His favorite line (only line) to the crowd was, "Why don't you just shut up!" The dream team resemble the Roadies without makeup and they were over with the crowd. As for working a match, they have some room for improvement. The Terminators were good and pretty well carried the match. The end came with the referee arguing with one of the Dream Team (he had to tell the guy to argue with him because the end was coming) while the other member of the team got clotheslined with a chain. The Termies won the belts and that's when the fun started.

Promoter Sam DeCero came to the ring with event Coordinator Allan Eppenstein to present the new belts. Sam said that Commissioner Bob Saber wasn't there to make a ruling but that he (Sam) wasn't happy about the outcome. They did a little arguing before Rigs grabbed the belt away from Sam and hit him over the head with it. Wolf destroyed Eppenstein and then they doubled on Sam. Sam sold a double clothesline that was a thing of beauty to watch, then did a stretcher job. It was later announced that Sam had fined the Termies \$5000 each.

A little background before we go any further...Sam used to wrestle as one half of the Maxx Brothers, Mad Maxx. He's dropped 50 pounds and now looks a lot like Vince McMahon. He quit wrestling due to a back injury where two discs were fused together. For him to take the kind of bump he did from that clothesline (almost a 360), takes a lot of guts or no brains and maybe a little of both. Something tells me that Sam will be putting on a little weight here in the next few months and climbing back into the ring. By the way, the match got a B- and the angle after was well done enough to get an A-.

The main event featured colonel DeBeers against WCW champ Steve Regal. It was about a fifteen minute arm bar. In all fairness, a lot was taken from the match when a ringsider suffered a heart attack and had to be carried, chair and all, from the building. There were a few high spots, but nothing sustained. I think Steve has forgotten how to work a babyface match and DeBeers...well, what can I say. The match was boring to me and I gave it a D. The end came with Regal getting the upper hand and the Terminators interfering for the DQ.

During the middle of the show, DeCero came to the ring and almost apologized for the show saying that future shows would have bigger and better names like Bruiser Brody, Abdullah the Butcher, the Midnight Express, and the Midnight Rockers. They hope to return to Dixon in the near future.

Now I know that this report has sounded a little critical and I know I've knit-picked. I meant it to be that way. I was a guest of the promotion and was given complete access to anywhere in the building I wanted including the dressing room. But, I wanted to write a fair report as well, not letting their hospitality influence me one way or another. Everyone (with the exception of the last match) worked their butts off and tried hard. Some are more experienced than others and they will improve with time. Others, like Melson, are already showing promise at an early stage.

As for the show and the promotion itself, sure they had their problems. The show started about 45 minutes late (no one seemed to notice) and there was the problem of no shows. However, I really enjoyed myself and was impressed. This promotion is in its infancy and seeing how advanced they are already is impressive. Would I drive 108 miles one way to Dixon again to see their show? Yep. It was that entertaining.

They are going to negotiate this week with TV people to put their show on. As they grow, so will their roster of talent. There is hope for this independent.

PULSE ON PORTLAND

by Greg Anderson

First of all, we must confirm that Steve Doll and Scott Peterson did in fact regain the Northwest tag belts from Avalanche and Mike Golden in the cage match on 5/7 in portland. During the bout, Golden drew some halfway blood but 14 potato punches could not open Peterson's head up, although a wayward blow did get Scott's nose to bleed.

On 5/14, Matt Dorne had a non title bout against the Grappler. After a good brawl, Matt had Grap in trouble and Colonel DeBeers (who "debuted" that night) mounted the top rope but Assassin also came out and climbed to the opposite corner to force a stand-off. Grappler tapped his boot on the mat near the Assassin, "not knowing his masked foe was up there" and suddenly looked up to see him. As Grap was taken aback, brone came in from behind with a reverse roll up for the pinfall. This earned Borne a title shot for 5/21. This promotion is actually trying to ignore the fact that DeBeers wrestled here for years as Ed Wiskowski and later as Mega Maharishi Imed (when he started a "religious commune"). I don't think they're fooling anybody. Wiskowski also had a brief run here as the Masked Convict.

Announced as coming in on the 5/23 Portland card is someone billed as the Terminator. The picture they showed on TV (from a Japanese mag or program) had someone with a hockey mask à la Jason the Terrible. It could be Jason, but the wrestler looked like he was Japanese to me. Grappler said he's bringing him in to team with him and go after the Southern Rockers' tag titles. Also on the card is Buddy Rose vs Assassin in a bullrope match (the dark main event) and matt Borne faces Col. DeBeers. All wrestlers spent interview time hyping the Terminator and his dreaded hold, the "Shininomaki."

it appears from watching the first Oregon Wrestling Federation TV show that Billy Jack Haynes will be pushing the slobs and steroid freaks and downplaying the smaller men who can work some hot matches. Also, most of the former Owen wrestlers will be doing jobs to "make a point." On the other hand, the TV production has it all over the "Portland Wrestling" show. On-screen graphics, slow-mo instant replays and good use of music before commercials help o make it a better quality TV show. The entrance music for the wrestlers does not come through well. On the TV show, tha aired on 5/14 and had these bouts from the first round of the OWF title tourney: Hercules Haggerty (Big Bubba from memphis) squashed Joey Jackson in 55 seconds, Steve Gator Wolf beat Kevin Kelly via DQ after he was dumped over the top ropes (a Z match all the way), JT Southern PINNED Chavo Guerrero in a scientific match that Chavo tried to make decent, Rip Oliver (Haynes' good friend) beat Dewy Forte and Blackstudd Williams (Ray Candy) squashed Coco Samoa in 4:23 and Samoa was stretched out. Haynes and Mike Miller advanced in dark matches and were set to meet in the second round. We understand that the live card started 40 minutes late and there were lengthy delays between matches, the longest which was about 30 minutes.

The 5/21 show had the four second round matches from the 5/14 show and they were all duds! Oliver pinned Southern with a thumb to the throat. haggerty made short work of Gator Wolf (who did nothing but chop and sell), Haynes pinned Miller in a scientific bout. I expected a heel turn by Miller, but it didn't happen (although Miller did strike the first hard blow of the match). Finally, Williams more or less squashed Brian Adams (take THAT, Don Owen). Again, I was impressed with the post production of the TV show but the in-ring product stinks. I guess haynes is having success trying to emulate the WWF! Haynes' third card was moved from Saturday to Sunday after a smaller crowd showed up on 5/21. I think that this was due more to the poor organization of the first card than anything Don Owen had done.

Skip Luthor, another Sharkey grad who was supposed to work for Don Owen and didn't show, is now in the OWF.

WORLD CLASS

Two major things out of here, the first being that it appears that World Class and Central States have pretty well combined. There is no official type word that Bob Geigel has sold out or anything, but the Kansas City shows are for the most part being headlined by World Class talent. I've been told that they even have a triple tower of doom card set for sometime in July.

World Class continues to work with some of the other smaller promotions as well. Without Fritz calling the shots and insisting that his boys be the main focal point, this might have a chance to work. The only thing is, they aren't drawing crowds in their home base of Dallas-Fort Worth, so the hope of drawing elsewhere may be limited. True, the world Class guys would be fresh faces and might draw on that alone, but unless the local TV centers around World Class angles, that is going to be a short lived thing as well.

The second major story would be the apparent firing of Chris Adams. Chris had been working some independent promotion in Texas (or at least that's the story they're giving) and Ken Mantell didn't like it. Still, if your promotion can't provide you with a living, you have to do what you have to do. No word on where Chris will pop up next.

They are going to try to go back to Houston, this time for a TV taping. The problem is, they can't seem to find a date suitable. Seems that the 42 people they had for their last attempt at a show here are all busy the night they decide on. They first had things lined up for 5/1 then they moved it to 5/27. Finally, they have it scheduled for 6/12 and basically what they have is a rehash of the Parade of Champions show with Kerry vs Iceman, Hayes vs Roberts, Gordy/Shawn vs Tatum/Victory and more. The 42 people they drew might have been a record but Sharkey's guys drew 26 the other night up in Minnesota.

I thought that Hayes and Gordy would have drawn in Texas. Talking with Dave Meltzer the other night, and we ~~figured out~~ the problem was, the fans just didn't buy the fact that these two hated each other. Doesn't matter how good matches might be...people have to be able to believe the plots.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

To answer a few questions before we start this section, 1) Yes, you may phone in results; 2) No you don't have to write your own notes at the end (just briefly describe each match and I'll do the rest) 3) be as complete as possible with an estimated crowd figure (actual if you can get it from the box office) 4) Grades on each match are optional. Don't worry what I would grade the match...I want your grade based on how you enjoyed the match. On to the results...

5-6 HERSHEY, PA (WWF) - courtesy of Carl Nitz...Scott Casey pinned Mike Sharpe (11:00)...Rick Rude over Koko B Ware (8:00)...Jake Roberts beat Greg Valentine (14:00)...Demolition over Strike Force (10:00)...Rougeaus beat Killer Bees (14:00)...Bret Hart drew Bad News Brown (17:00)...Honky tonk Man defeated Beefcake by COR (10:00)...Andre pinned Jim Duggan (5:00)...NOTES: Attendance 6000...announcer was legendary WWF announcer Joe McCue...Casey and Sharpe provided a good opener...Jake chased Rude out following Rdu-e-Ware match...Roberts-Valentine an excellent match...Rougeaus weren't the best heels, but they provided an enjoyable match; some good moves by both teams...Hart and Bad News got no heat....it was a scheduled 20 minute match that only went 17....Jimmy Hart played Peggy Sue.

5-13 OMAHA, NE (WWF) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert...Rougeaus over Bees...Muraco pinned Gang...Neidhart over George Steele by COR...Islanders beat Hillbilly Jim/Muraco...Koko defeated Heenan.....Jake went DCOR with Rude...Savage beat DiBiase...NOTES: Attendance 7280...show for most part boring...Heenan took some good bumps...fans really got on Rougeaus...Bees look terrible...Islanders consisted of Haku and Afi...Tama has been no showing around the rest of the contry as well...Bigelow was a no show in his match with Gang.

5-14 HARTFORD, CT (WWF) - courtesy of Ron Lemieux & Dan Reilly (grades by Dan)...Lombardi beat Brady Boone (C+)...Sherri Martel over Deseree Peterson (C)...Ron Bass pinned Junk Yard Dog (D-)...Andre over Duggan by COR (D)...Casey pinned Sharpe (D+)...Bad News Brown pinned Bret Hart (B)...Dingbat over Hercules (C)...Strike Force beat Demolition by DQ (C)...NOTES: Attendance 5000...no managers in attendance....Bass used ropes to pin Dog...Bad News pinned Hart when Bret rolled him up but Brown reversed it and used trunks...Dingbat-Hercules getting used to working together and made the match watchable...got the win with a press slam & cover.

5-20 ST LOUIS, MO (WWF) - courtesy of Harry White...Casey over Barry Horowitz...Steele beat Fuji by COR...Dingbat beat Hercules...Neidhart pinned Hillbilly Jim...Martel/Santana over Demolition by DQ...Sherri pinned Rockin Robin...One Man Gang pinned Bigelow...Savage beat DiBiase...NOTES: Attendance: 3000...this was the most heavily promoted show in St Louis history and one of the worst crowds...Top rated radio station had call in shows with Savage & DiBiase, and two interviews with Fred Blassie...2nd rated radio had week long hype with giveaways & interviews...front page of sports carried a color picture and story on Savage

5-20 PHOENIX, AZ (IND) - courtesy of Dale pierce...
 Southern Warrior beat Charlie the Choker...Danny Medina
 over Tom Ramirez by DQ...Bette Clarke pinned Jessie
 Vavarro...Eddie Lopez won a battle royal...Crazy Horse
 beat Marcial Boveé by COR...NOTES: card actually took
 place in Fort McDowell, a Phoenix suburb...this group
 will try weekly cards...Boveé took a chair to the head
 outside the ring and drew hardway blood. Charlie the
 Choker does nothing but choke his opponent.

5-21 ALLENTOWN, PA (TWWF) - courtesy of Gary Howerter...
 Paul Valentine pinned Ricky Reed (C)...Samoan Afi/Rocky
 Johnson beat Buddy Rose/doug Sommers (B)...David Sammar-
 tino over Lumberjack Pierre by DQ (C)...Sgt. Slaughter
 pinned Col. DeBeers (B)...Nasty Boys beat Midnight
 Rockers (A)...NOTES: Attendance 1000...no shows included
 Bruno Sammartino, Lou albano, and Curt Hennig...an
 autograph session was promised before the show, but
 none took place...Nasty Boys got a good reception in
 their home town...match was a 20 min wild brawl.

5-21 PHILADELPHIA (WWF) - courtesy of Randy Smith...
 Lombardi beat Jerry Allen (F-)...Rougeaus over Stallions
 (B-)...Bad News drew Bret (C)...Andre over Duggan by
 COR (F)...Islanders/Heenan beat Bulldogs/Koko (B+)...
 Muraco beat Valentine by DQ (D)...Jake pinned Rude
 (B-)...NOTES: Attendance: 8500...Muraco took a great
 bump, hanging himself in the ropes...Jake used a sunset
 flip on Rude...Andre Duggan carbon copy finish as everywhere

5-24 HILLSVILLE, VA (NWA) - courtesy of Larry Lovell...
 K. Windham pinned Tony Suber...Rip Morgan over Rocky
 King...Sheeps beat Royal/South...Perez beat Chris Champ-
 ion...Garvin beat Rotundo by DQ...Nikita/Lex beat Tully/
 Arn...NOTES: Tag match was a non title (perhaps a
 rehearsal?)...rotundo DQ'd for tossing Garvin over top
 rope...Perez & Champion a poor match.

5-27 NEW YORK (WWF) BY SEAN GRANDE...Conquistador beat
 SD Jones (c)...Valentine over Animal DQ (F)...Rougeaus
 beat Stallions (C+)...OMG DCOR Brutus (C)...Islanders/
 Heenan beat Dogs/Koko (B-)...Sharpe pinned Allen (D+)...
 Savage over DiBiase by DQ (A-)...Neidhart pinned Muraco
 (C)...Bravo pinned Patera (C-)...JYD pinned Bass (D)...
 NOTES: Attendance 13000...Virgil interferred, but

VERY late...OMG-Brutus fell out of ring with OMG
 on top...Brutus got up very slow.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

We'll take care of the trivia question straight away...Last issue we asked "What wrestler appeared in the David Lee Roth music video 'Just a Gigolo'?" The answer is Toru Tanaka and there was a little bit of a trick thrown in for good measure. In the video, Roth parodies other music videos including Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" in which Captain Lou Albano appeared. Lots of calls this last couple of weeks to inform me that it was NOT the good captain and that the question should be thrown out. However, Tanaka did have a cameo in the video. This issue's question is an easy one: Who once wrestled as Crusher Von Haig? The answer next time. As always, this is just for fun and there is no prize for correct answers. By the way, if you have a trivia question you think would be good, send it along, but be sure to include the answer.

I OUGHT TO BE A DETECTIVE DEPARTMENT...We managed to get the license number of the car that allegedly had Paul E Dangerously in it from the Dixon show. I had my brother (the cop) check it out and low and behold... it wasn't him. So much for sleuthing.

British wrestlers will start heading for the unemployment line soon. ITV, the independent network in England announced that it will no longer carry wrestling after 33 years and that by the end of the year it will be completely phased out. ITV's position is that wrestling attracts an older audience and is a sport out of the 1950's. There has been a decline in viewership in recent years, down to 2.5 million from a one time high of nearly 7 million. Wrestling never quite caught on in Britain like it did here. My thanks to several readers for sending various clips of this story.

Gary Fishman would like me to warn readers in the New York area that there is a wrestler (who is awful) going by the name of King Kong Brody. He is not Bruiser Brody (who used to use that name) but a fat copy of King Kong Bundy (a fat Bundy?!?). He has reportedly worked several independent shows in the area.

Central Illinois may never be the same...if things go right, Sean is planning a trip here to Knoxville from June 11 - 15 which will mark the first time we've met. Warning to promoters: If there is a show during that time within a 108 mile radius, we're comin'. Sean will be here to perform Presidential duties for the UAWF, to finalize plans for the UAWF convention, and to actually help with the production of both the UAWF magazine and this bulletin. Who knows...we might even get him on the business end of an Illinois lawn mower (hee, hee). His excuse for coming has to do with Kelly's birthday but we are convinced that the real reason is to find REAL pizza. For those who wish to call while he's here, he'll be here normal hours and I'll be here my normal crazy hours.

Evidently the crude joke of the month went over a lot of people's heads. Sorry. The joke was, "Did you hear that Steve Williams' wife/girl-friend has found a new form of birth control? She gives him a stick of gum before they go to bed." Explanation...well, you've heard of people who can't walk and chew gum at the same time? You take it from there (I swear I just heard a collective "Ooooh!" from across the country).

Abdullah the Butcher is recovering from gall bladder and ulcer surgery. From what I can gather it was another case of non-emergency yet serious. He should be back in the ring by August, but knowing a few people who have undergone gall bladder operations, it would be a minor miracle to see him back to his brawling type of wrestling until close to the first of the year. Can you imagine the look on the scrub nurses' faces when they wheeled this whale into the operating room? All kidding aside, we wish Abby a speedy recovery.

We used to have a column called HOT RUMORS and we should have brought it back this time around. The rumor mill has been working overtime. Let's clear up a couple more...Paul Orndorff did not die. This has been all over and I think this is the second or third time he supposedly died. This time I'm hearing he blew up (literally) from steroids, shot himself because he had aids, had aids and died and had a bowling ball fall on his head while changing pins in his bowling alley. None, of course, is true.

The second rumor is that Bret Hart will be the one to finally wrest the IC title from HTM. Could be true. It would make sense and allow him to turn completely against Jimmy Hart. Do you realize that HTM has held that title for a whole freaking year?!?!

I didn't know this...Ric Flair can cook. He took part in a March of Dimes Gourmet Gala in Miami which was a celebrity cook off. He took third place with his Nature's Stew, a seafood and rice dish behind Olivia Brown of "Miami Vice" and fashion designer Oleg Cassini. Flair is a man of many talents it seems.

What happened to Wrestling Eye? Has anyone seen it here in the last month? I haven't seen it on the local newstand and a couple of readers who have subscriptions have called and written to say they haven't received a copy in about eight weeks. I can't answer the question and Ed Garea is no longer involved with the magazine, but between the 200+ of us, we'll have an answer next issue.

I talked with my source at the Peoria Civic Center who has access to Commission numbers and they told me that the Windy City show at the Amphitheatre paid taxes on a gate of \$6000. That would figure out to only about 600 paid. There is no return date set. Also, no wrestling scheduled for Peoria in the near future (at least at the civic Center).

Well, I guess that wraps up another issue. Not sure what we've got on tap for next time except that with Sean here, it will be a joint effort and should be interesting. He'll arrive in Peoria around 2:30 on Saturday the 11th so with delays and what not, he and I should be back here by TBS time for calls and stuff. We'll see you in a couple of weeks. Bye.

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